

Meeting, Co-operatives group. Warrnambool 3.10.80

BACKGROUND ON SOME GROUPS ATTENDING:

Hamilton CYSS Ex Market garden site available on lease of private land. CYSS to operate, possibly using sessional instructors. Or Industrial Promotion Committee may start a Co-op. In effect it would be a take over of an operating business.

Brunswick Just registered a work co-op on 21st Aug. Setting up books. Operating an offset printing service, screen printing and a food section. CERES is separate and reg. Co. Company last month. (Ltd by guarantee) Funded through VEC for two years. Acts as centre for urban research and environmental strategies. Urban Farm and Energy Centre on Merri Creek. Ideas 2-2½ years in formation. Not enough money for all envisaged. VEC \$55,000 conditional on regular reporting, BSL \$2000 Ross Trust \$500. Seen as job creation with work at different levels through co-op and other ventures. BUG, unemployed centre. All groups separate but work in together.

Loch Ard \$17,000 for one year for coordinator etc. Conditional as a once only grant and to "demonstrate potential" to be self sufficient by end of funding period." Advised by SBD Corp councillor, Alf Stirling, would have been better to have been Ltd Co. because Co-op structured for profit, even if don't intend to operate that way, and Ltd Co not. Therefore possible funding grants could be affected. Contested knock back by pub support and access to influential politicians.

Stray comments. Received from various contacts.

CYSS: "Funding at minimum viable levels" "Ministerial decree. Across the board cuts forbidden. Equity necessary" State CYSS Committee. Letter from Max. WORCO. Dept of E&Y Affairs. Funded all Vic projects. No set Guide Lines as prefer not to squash originality. Must incorporate job training aspects. Contact

Adrian van Leat
Dept of Emp. and Youth Affairs
NEAT Special Projects
NRMA House
92 Northbourne Ave
BRADDON ACT 2601

Follow through from last meeting

1. Joining Co-op Fed. Brunswick has. Loch Ard agreed to in principle when funds come through. Check to be made with Maryborough to see if they have. Rod and Karen to follow through with Fed re secretarial backup. See last minutes for advantages of joining.
2. Coordinator for Co-ops. No move from group. Problems of coordination due to distance. Letter from one group reached VEC via a politician. David stressed that resolution must reach VEC in terms of a submission for any action to happen. Coordinate with Vic Fed of Co-ops. Now is a vital time to influence decisions as his report will be discussed on 10th October.
3. Also contact local politicians re issue above. Loch Ard put to local politician and P.M. on visit from Canberra.
4. Only known ^{VEE}funding is of ~~XXXXXX~~, Smith Family in Fitzroy, WORCO and a Malvern group, through VEC Youth Projects. Round \$25,000 level.
5. Re VEC funds. Brunswick to check through State Budget Papers and Tom Roper.

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David. Role and Relevance of VEC to Work Councils


MB Report presented. To be considered with Det. David now a VEC staff member.

Reports available and distributed.

1. Work For Tomorrow. Vic Govt Comm on Structural Change and Employment.
2. Local Employment Development Report. VEC working Party.
3. Network No 2 News Letter VEC
4. Youth Affairs Council "Vote For Jobs"
5. Assorted collection of VEC papers.

- Aim
- Structure
- Committee membership
- Project funding criteria
- Vic Technical Advisory Committee
- Job Forecasting Bureau
- Local Employment Devel Programme
- Neighbourhood Emp Devel Proj
- Labour Market Report
- Net Work
- Discussion Paper Series. To be distributed weekly. Free.
 - School to Work Transition Allowances
 - Regional Job Profile
 - Unemployment, Training and the Semi-skilled Worker
 - Motor Vehical Industry in Aust.





If want copies, contact VEC. - DAVID GRIFFIN

VEC involved in:

1. Study Wangaratta. Evaluation of textile and clothing industries affected by structural change. CES offices quarterly returns and comparisons made.
2. Study of hidden unemployment. With Urban Research and Action. Slow coming.
3. Transport and Unemployment. With Transport Board.
4. Motor Vehicle Industry
5. Might be discussion paper on Myer's Report.
6. Neighbourhood Employment Study. Boxhill and Williamstown.
7. Job forecasting Bureau
8. Unemployment among women. Waverley
9. Sheparton Series on Unemployment
10. Migrant studies - Greek
- Turkish
- Italian
With Centre for Urban Research and Action
11. Permanent Part Time Work Study
12. Youth Employment Study as released by Mike Young. To be considered on Oct. 11th with recommendations from Youth Employment sub cttee. Copies available, free. Get in early as print runs are not long. But big demand could force reprint.
13. Employment Status of Disabled. Nearly ready.
14. Training Resources Study. 300 pages!
15. VEC funding to CERES
Maryborough \$15,000
Loch Ard 17,000
Discussion held with ...



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Work Co-ops. See Network p1

VEC has no actual Work co-op programme at present. Only a defacto programme. Hammer said, 1978, had funded some co-ops and up to four co-ops may get VEC funding.

David is to work on co-ops among other things. John Belsey on submissions. Will split visits between them.

Report on 10th Oct may lead to adoption of programme for Co-ops, cf Neighbourhood Employment Study and resiliant demo project(s).

Q What are targets of reports? Internal use or public release?

A Most reports commissioned by VEC are eventually for public release through discussion papers. But not advertised.

Q Could a list be made and circulated?

A May be.

Implimentation of Paper 1 relevent to Fraser's recent announcement.

(See last page of hand out no 5. Labour Market reports, every two months, also available free.)

No 3. Series of recommendations to Indust Tng Commission. Redrafted through Ed and Tng Subettee. In process of being implemented.

Other reports ditto, in one form or other.

Co-op report. Could decide either:

1. Fund without programme as now.
2. Low cost programme as in S.A. \$16,000
3. Medium programme as in N.S.W. \$3,000,000
4. Large scale \$10-20 million. Not likely.

Could argue should not be done through VEC. Not doing much with money it has had to set up dif dept or administer through Vic Fed of Co-ops.

Comment. If field officer being sought is departmental they could be absorbed into buracracy. Preferable if independent.



[REDACTED]

Re submission. Recommend based on

1. Need.
2. Indication grant will be well used.
3. Is in response to local initiative.
- (4. Levels of funding Staff
decision made by Director

Minister of
Board of VEC

Could affect decisions made. Contact David or John for preliminary discussions.)

5. Urge the development of a flexible programme of support and funding for more than one of each type as dif areas could have same need. Also support inovative projects. Need an equitable distribution of funds.
6. In grants need funds for
 - coordinator's salary
 - training funds (but not likely through VEC)
 - Capital equipment
 - Materials
 - = Administrative backup.
7. Block grants or budgeted grants? Pros and cons discussed but no recommendation made.

These were points raised. Redrafting of form of submission refered back to later in meeting. Left to Warrnambool people and those staying over night.

Graham Hubbard Jobless Action Network

Three concerns relating to unemployment

1. The need to keep telling people there is a problem eg to stop Doug Anthony type statements.
2. Have to come to terms with fact that the problem is not going to go away. Is a result of development of western, free enterprise type of system. No guaranteed min income as with some other systems. Therefore effects are more serious here.
3. What are we going to do about it as a society and as individual

Sees Myer's report as social diversion tactics. ie Tech devel leads to new areas of development therefore unemployment is a thing of the past type argument. Have had tech change for over 100 years. Now is computer based and capital, not labour, intensive devel. Competitive nature of free enterprise system is something govt does not want debated. This economic system has lead to an unsolvable problem. Is based on consumption but there is a down turn in consumption. Because

- is a drop off in new markets
- cant keep producing consumer goods

At beginning of consumerism spurt there were plenty of jobs, hence consumers to buy and competition for jobs. Now the reverse. Winners are the big, capital intensive corporations.

Losers are employees and small businesses.

Myers says profit goes to labour but that is not so.

Alternatives seem to be, Small businesses with high employment, even if are not efficient or, large, efficient corporations with high unemployment. If had economic and social planning then there could be an equitable distribution of wealth as had happened previously through full employment. And then work out other ways to use time, previously spent at employment, interestingly.

Power is being held by fewer and fewer people and the powerful do not want debate that could lead to change. Unemployed are fighting from a base of powerlessness and isolation. How can this be counteracted?

[REDACTED]

Re funding, Graham prefers to see the defet of co-ops rather than Fed funded projects because they encourage self management and self help. Need mobilization to work together where as are now isolated.

1. Self help to participate in society.
2. Mobilize to bring groups together to form a common base and comron movement.

Nominated Pam Moore for senate to initiate debate on the issues.

Q Conflict between Govt support and self management?

A Am cynical about any govt programme

1. Guidelines are designed to knock back grants.
2. Funding maintains powerlessness as grants depend on conformity. eg high staff turn over in CYSS due to frustration

Q Multiplier effect of minerals boom. Has employment prospects as a result been looked at?

A Commentators cynical of any prospect of jobs. *if Cda River Project
→ 2 Rda projects*

Q. Talked about attitudes to work as well as new work and new groups

A There is a difference between work and employment. Options.
- reverse trend to centralization of production to regain access to distribution of wealth.
- that is not possible or desirable. Therefore need to redefine work and redistribute wealth through some other system. Favours second alternative.

Favours guaranteed minimum income. Does not necessarily need a socialistic system for this. But political action needed to force issue. Hard for those dependant on govt funding for projects to consider taking this type of action.

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[REDACTED]

Q Work sharing?

A Appropriate only if shared by those with \$10,00 plus incomes.
Part timers power off despite loadings (in some cases).
Also lack of security for old age unless have better benefits
because of lack of superannuation.

Q Co-ops and unemployment?

A 1. Makes unemployed more visible therefore something more
likely to be done. OR
2. Co-op is looking after unemployed so nothing needs to be done.

While Dr/patient model operates the community is as much a boggy
as govt as people see govt funding as way out of alternative
action. Funding is an embarrassing solution. Also has cut off
development of self help groups.

Then followed discussion on Neville's Raxpax Paper.

Employment: What one is paid to do rarely matches up with what
one would like to do with own creative talent.
Quality of work issues of sixties have been lost.

Work: Use of ones talents in a fulfilling way.
Technical change good if gets rid of demeaning employment. In
practice has only withdrawn many from production/consumption cycle.

David. Disagrees with outline. More are seeing unemployment as
a problem and either - dont see what they can do about it OR
- dont see they should do something about it.
Issue of what is economically necessary or politically tollerable.

Discussion then drifted back to issue of business held over from
last meeting. And overlapped with some of earlier discussion.

(New Credit Co-op in Collingwood suggest they help set up
accounting procedures in exchange for others services as way of
avoiding money exchange. Piece of info interspersed.)

[REDACTED]

David summarized areas where action is needed.

1. Ask VEC to distribute David's report on Small Businesses and Co-ops as soon as possible.
2. Urge groups to join Vic Fed of Co-ops as soon as possible if have not already done so.
3. Budget Papers on unused VEC funds. See earlier comment.
4. Publications list from David? May be... Each group write separately for what they want and groups not present for papers distributed at meeting. See p 2.
5. How support Co-ops? Sorry, lost the gist of this one.
6. Fed Dept of Emp and Youth Affairs. Ask who has been funded? What are other funding possibilities. eg if wanted funds for training and could not get through VEC.
7. Follow up with CO-op Fed and see what admin services are available, now and when groups join.
8. Check with Fed re moves made for field worker.

Left to those staying on to sort out and act.

Next meeting Brunswick Friday 28th Nov. at 173 Alston Street, Brunswick.
(Uniting Church hall).

For those interested.

Food Justice Centre
Friends of the Earth (Vic)
366 Smith Street
COLLINGWOOD 3066

Meeting 7.30 22nd Oct of Food Co-ops.